**

Inauguration of the Savelugu District Research-for-Development Platform: Northern Region, Ghana

**Abdul Rahman Nurudeen, Shaibu Melon Bedi, Confort Yelipoie and Dokurugu Fuseni**

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Through action research and development partnerships, Africa RISING will create opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified farming systems that improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base.

The three regional projects are led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (in West Africa and East and Southern Africa) and the International Livestock Research Institute (in the Ethiopian Highlands). The International Food Policy Research Institute leads the program’s monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment. <http://africa-rising.net/>

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# Background

Africa RISING project in Ghana is a USAID government funded project led by International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). It is a research project into sustainable intensification and integration of natural resources to improve productivity, nutrition, income security and reduce hunger and poverty in smallholder families especially children and women. The project is being implemented in the three northern regions of Ghana (Northern, Upper East and Upper West). In Northern Region the project is implemented in two districts, namely Tolon and Savelugu Districts. In Savelugu District, the project is implemented in five communities (Jana, Duko, Botingli, Tibali and Kpallung).

# Research-for-Development (R4D) Platform

Africa RISING project framework proposes the use of R4D platforms to identify critical research intervention along value chains. The project in northern Ghana started with Farmer Based Organization (FBO’s) at the community levels but now the focus has been expanded beyond the FBO’s at community level to include all active stakeholders and bring them to district level R4D platform. The district level R4D establishment and management is based on the principles set out in the Africa RISING framework.

# Highlights of innovation platform inauguration meeting

The meeting was held on 21 January 2015 in Savelugu town at the District Assembly hall. Participants included; research scientists, representatives of FBO’s from all intervention communities, non-governmental organizations, private sector, policy makers and other governmental institutions.

## Meeting objectives and expected outcomes

The main goal for launching the R4D platform is to make research interventions demand driven (bottom-up approach). Specific objectives of the Savelugu District R4D platform are to:

1. Bring stakeholders or value chain actors on a common platform for discussion on problems affecting agriculture from production to consumption within the District.
2. Elect and inaugurate R4D committee members and executives.
3. Brief R4D committee members and executives on their roles and functions.

The expected outcomes of the meeting were as follows:

1. Establishment of Savelugu District R4D platform.
2. Inauguration of R4D committee members and executives.
3. Functioning R4D committee members and executives.

## Meeting process

The meeting was chaired by the Savelugu District Coordinating Director Mr Issaka Basintale. He began the program with a welcome speech followed by self-introduction of all the participants.

# Welcome address by District Director of Agriculture

Mr Francis Neindow (District Director of Agriculture) welcomed all participants to the meeting. According to him, farmers in the District have already benefited a lot from the Africa RISING project which has offered farmers inputs (fertilizer and improved crop varieties) and improved agronomic practices. He therefore charged all the stakeholders to work hard and make the R4D platform successful.

# Presentation on Africa RISING Background and the R4D platform

Dr Dugje Ibrahim, on behalf of the Africa RISING Chief Scientist (Dr Asamoah Larbi) gave a brief presentation on the background of Africa RISING project and objectives of research for development platform. He said, the objective of Africa RISING is to support smallholder farmers to eradicate poverty and hunger through improved cropping systems, household income security as well as conserving the natural resources. The Africa RISING program operates in West Africa, Southern and Eastern Africa and Ethiopian highlands. In West Africa, the project operates in Ghana and Mali. In Ghana, it operates in the three northern regions with two districts in each region and 25 intervention communities in all the regions. A total of about 1,500 households are benefiting from the project in the three northern regions of Ghana. He further added that, the R4D platform will provide a common ground for networking of stakeholders to bring new technologies to economic use.

Dr Dugje briefed participants about the importance of R4D platform, the need for sustainability after the project has ended and asked them to select good leaders to represent them on the platform. Participants were allowed to make contributions to the number and stakeholders to form the District R4D platform committee. He advised that the District level R4D platform committee members should comprise of staff from Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), Ghana Health Service, Ghana Education Service, Farmer Based Organization, policy makers and value chain actors.

# Election of R4D Committee and executives

R4D committee members were elected from amongst various stakeholder groups which include MoFA, Ghana Education Service (GES), Ghana Health Service (GHS), NGO's, Farmer Based Organizations, Magajiya, Chiefs, Tindanas (elders), Seed producers and market actors. Each stakeholder group elected one member to represent them on the District R4D platform committee. The District R4D committee was made up of 12 members. After election of the members of the R4D committee, the new committee members then went ahead to elect their executives. These executives were Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, Secretary, Organizer and Treasure.

**Table 1:** Savelugu District R4D platform committee members

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **Name** | **Institution** | **Position** |
|  | Mohammed Salifu Fuseini | Chief | Chairperson |
|  | Mavis Abdul Korah | Ghana Health Service | Vice-chairperson |
|  | Mahammadu Alhassan Sheriff | Ghana Education Service | Secretary |
|  | Alhassan Fuseini | Assemblyman | Organizer |
|  | Fauzia Sadick | MoFA-WIAD | Treasurer |
|  | Mohammed Abdul Rahman | MoFA-Veterinary | Member |
|  | Iddrisu A. Ayuba | MoFA-Crop AEA | Member |
|  | Memunatu Salifu | Magajiya | Member |
|  | Alhassan Abdul Rahman | Tindana | Member |
|  | Issah Mohammed Sani | Farmer | Member |
|  | Abukari Nassam | Market Actor | Member |
|  | Hardi Akibu | Seed producer | Member |

The chairman of the occasion Mr Issaka Basintale (District Coordinating Director of Savelugu) swore in the District R4D committee members into office.



**Photo 2:** Swearing in of Savelugu R4D committee members by Mr Issaka Basintale (District Coordinating Director)

# Meeting with R4D platform committee members and executive

Mr Abdul Rahman Nurudeen, Africa RISING Research Associate, met with the elected R4D committee members and executives to brief them about the core mandate of the platform which was to identify a critical value chain research intervention that cuts-across all intervention communities by getting in touch with members at the community level. He also spelled out the roles of the R4D members and executives and tasked the committee members to have their first meeting within the next seven days to draw an activity plan for their quarterly meeting, opening of an account with a bank within the District for the project support in facilitating their meetings.

# Closing remarks

The chairperson for the program (Mr Issaka Basintale) thanked all participants for making the meeting a successful one and tasked the District R4D committee members to work hard for the interest of both stakeholders and the project.

# Annexes

**Annex 1:** Participants profile and their associated work during the R4D platform meeting

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Stakeholder | Function in the platform | Representation at meeting |
| Farmer Based Organizations (crop and livestock) | Users’ pf research products.  Generate research agenda.  Engage in R4D process. | 10 |
| Input dealers | First line of supply of inputs for out scaling | 1 |
| Market Actors | Access to markets.  First line of produce quality assurance. | 1 |
| Produce processors | Add value to products.  Create demand for produce. | 1 |
| Researchers | Generate new innovations to solve problems.  Support extension and adoption. | 6 |
| Media | Dissemination of innovation information. | 3 |
| Agriculture Extension Agents | Support adoption process.  Support participatory research. | 12 |
| District Director of Agriculture | Policy guidance for R4D work. | 1 |
| Local Government | Policy guidance for R4D work. | 7 |
| Development partners | Up and out scaling of innovation. | 2 |

**Annex 2:** List of participants

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **Participants** | **Title** | **Institution** |
| 1 | Awudu Issah | Jana farmer | FBO |
| 2 | Zakaria Danaa | Jana farmer | FBO |
| 3 | Abdul Rahman Yakubu | Jana Tendana | Tindana |
| 4 | Fuseini Salifu | Jana Chief | Chief |
| 5 | Azara Ibrahim | Jana Magajiya | FBO |
| 6 | Issah Zackaria Nabila | Jana Assemblyman | Local Government |
| 7 | Issah Mohammed Sani | Duko farmer | FBO |
| 8 | Zakaribila Alhassan | Duko farmer | FBO |
| 9 | Issah Amadu | Duko Tendana | Tindana |
| 10 | Sulemana Alhassan | Duko Chief | Chief |
| 11 | Sulley Zehira | Duko Magajiya | FBO |
| 12 | Mahama Adam | Duko Assemblyman | Local Government |
| 13 | Abdulai Abukari | Botingli farmer | FBO |
| 14 | Aziz Inusah | Botingli farmer | FBO |
| 15 | Alhassan Abdul Rahman | Botingli Tendana | Tindana |
| 16 | Abdulai Musah | Botingli Chief | Chief |
| 17 | Mohammed Zulfaw | Botingli Magajiya | FBO |
| 18 | Imoro Arimeyaw | Botingli Assemblyman | Local Government |
| 19 | Nassam Mohammed | Kpallung farmer | FBO |
| 20 | Bako Imoro | Kpallung farmer | FBO |
| 21 | Dawuda Alhassan | Kpallung Tendana | Tindana |
| 22 | Issah Mohammed | Kpallung Chief | Chief |
| 23 | Alhassan Daamat | Kpallung Magajiya | FBO |
| 24 | Alhassan Ibrahim | Kpallung Assemblyman | Local Government |
| 25 | Ibrahim Yakubu | Tibali farmer | FBO |
| 26 | Sulemana Yahaya | Tibali farmer | FBO |
| 27 | Abukari Abdul Rahman | Tibali Tendana | Tindana |
| 28 | Iddrisu Saaka | Tibali Chief | Chief |
| 29 | Salifu Memunatu | Tibali Magajiya | FBO |
| 30 | Alhassan Fuseini | Tibali Assemblyman | Local Government |
| 31 | Abdulai Alhassan Red | Municipal Chief Executive | Local Government |
| 32 | Issaka Basintale | Municipal Co-ord. Director | Local Government |
| 33 | Francis Abdulai Naindow | Municipal Director of Agric. | MoFA |
| 34 | Alhaji Abukari Inusah | Municipal Planning Officer | Local Government |
| 35 | Juana Quarco | Municipal Health Director | GHS |
| 36 | Alhaji Alhassan Yakubu | Municipal Education Director | GES |
| 37 | Abdul Fatawu Abass | Municipal Agric Officer | MoFA |
| 38 | Bako Abdulai | MIS Officer | MoFA |
| 39 | Alhaji Alidu Salifu | Municipal Agric Officer-Extension | MoFA |
| 40 | Hudu Inusah | Municipal Crops Officer | MoFA |
| 41 | Abukari Yahaya | Municipal Livestock Officer | MoFA |
| 42 | Mohammed Abdul Rahman | Municipal Vet. Officer (DVO) | MoFA |
| 43 | Alhassan Dason | Department of Cooperative | Local Government |
| 44 | Joe Wasofa | AEA - Crop - Jana | MoFA |
| 45 | Sumani Ibrahim | AEA - Crop - Duko | MoFA |
| 46 | Abubakari Adams | AEA - Crop - Botingli | MoFA |
| 47 | Ayuba Iddrisu | AEA - Crop - Kpallung | MoFA |
| 48 | Felix Oteng Dwaah | AEA - Crop - Tibali | MoFA |
| 49 | Yakubu Chimsi | AEA - Veterinary - Jana | MoFA |
| 50 | Mamudu Seidu | AEA - Veterinary - Botingli | MoFA |
| 51 | Jacquelini Asugbe | AEA - Veterinary - Tibali | MoFA |
| 52 | Salifu Mohammed | AEA - Veterinary - Kpallung | MoFA |
| 53 | Fauzia Zakaria | WIAD Officer | MoFA |
| 54 | Sanatu Nantogma | Manageress | NGO (Tumakavi) |
| 55 | Joseph Agolma | Area Manager | NGO (Trias) |
| 56 | Abukari Nasir | Manager | Market Actor (Ganye Agro. Ent.) |
| 57 | Hardi Akibu | Seed Producers | SEEDPAG |
| 58 | Fuseina Issah | Processor (Maltiti) | Private sector |
| 59 | Dugje Ibrahim | System Agronomist | IITA |
| 60 | Abdul Rahman Nurudeen | Research Associate | IITA |
| 61 | Shaibu Mellon-Bedi | Research Supervisor | IITA |
| 62 | Comfort Yelipoie | Research Supervisor | IITA |
| 63 | Dokrugu Fuseni | Research technician | IITA |
| 64 | Sulemana Alhassan | Research technician | IITA |
| 65 | Ebenerzer Nartey | Research technician | IITA |